

Wheelabrator Technologies embarks on second century of environmental innovation

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Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

Media

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HAMPTON, N.H. - October 21, 2008 - Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., the U.S. pioneer for municipal waste-to-energy technology, observes its 100th year of environmental achievement and innovation by looking forward to the next 100 years of continued excellence and leadership. The company's accomplishments span a century of establishing global standards for design and efficiency in materials handling, industrial foundry and castings, dust control, worker safety and environmental control.

"On behalf of our 100th-year heritage of excellence and innovation, this celebration marks the beginning of an even more exciting future for Wheelabrator," said Mark A. Weidman, president of Wheelabrator Technologies. "We're deeply proud of the inventive, landmark environmental achievements of our predecessors and equally enthusiastic about the potential for even more challenging leadership and innovation in the decades ahead."

Wheelabrator was founded in 1908 as Sand Mixing Machine Company, which, by 1910, had evolved into American Foundry Equipment Company, inventor of the "American Dust Arrestor," an industrial fabric cleaning system for foundry operations. In 1932, the company introduced the airless centrifugal wheel for efficiently cleaning industrial surfaces.

Over the next two decades, through acquisitions and innovations, the company grew into an environmentally focused company. By the early 1970s, Wheelabrator emerged as the founder of the U.S.-based waste-to-energy business when it opened the industry's first commercially successful facility in Saugus, Massachusetts.

Today, wholly owned by the largest environmental service company in North America, Waste Management, Inc., Wheelabrator is a recognized market leader in the design, construction and operation of waste-to-energy and independent power facilities, with 21 facilities across North America. Wheelabrator has recorded numerous industry firsts in providing reliable and safe waste disposal, clean energy, natural resource management and protection, and air quality control. Wheelabrator's century of innovative American "firsts" include:

- 1910 – first industrial air pollution control device for foundries
- 1932 – first airless centrifugal wheel for industrial cleaning
- 1975 – first commercially successful waste-to-energy facility
- 1979 – first commercial reuse/recycling project for waste-to-energy residue
- 1987 – first modern air quality control technology for large-scale, waste-to-energy
- 1994 – first waste-to-energy facility with integrated materials recovery/recycling and carbon injection control

"These are just a few of the many achievements we owe to our innovative company founders," added Weidman. "With the advent of newer and newer technologies, more education and better training, and a burgeoning demand for clean energy answers worldwide, we at Wheelabrator expect to provide continuing innovation and policy leadership in this industry for many years to come."

As part of the company's centennial celebration, Wheelabrator proudly recognizes both the company and individual successes of its employees. Vice President of Technical Services Arthur Cole, for example, personifies this excellence in personal achievement and team leadership. A 30-year veteran of the company and pivotal in the early Saugus operations, Cole holds eight U.S. patents in the fields of waste combustion and air pollution control technologies. On October 16, 2008, Cole was recognized by the industry for his accomplishments by receipt of the WTERT 2008 Outstanding Contribution Award at Columbia University.

Beyond its historic foundation of technical and operational excellence, Wheelabrator has been fundamental in shaping the American energy marketplace over the past 35 years. The company has ardently supported industry organizations such as Integrated Waste Services Association (IWSA), the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (WTER), and others, garnering numerous awards for its success. Wheelabrator also founded and conducts the annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education, a perennial nationwide middle school program for hundreds of participating students, teachers and administrators.

According to Weidman, “The people who founded this company in 1908 and those who will lead it in the next century will have shared the same motivations – leading very talented people in developing better and better technologies for industry and the environment. We’re extremely proud to be a part of this chain of past and future innovation.”

About Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management of Houston, Texas, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a world leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of municipal solid waste and other renewable waste fuels into clean energy. Wheelabrator’s 17 waste-to-energy facilities provide safe waste disposal for towns and cities across the U.S. Wheelabrator also operates five independent power plants designed to generate electricity using an assortment of fuels, including waste wood, tires, waste coal, and natural gas. In addition to producing electricity, some of these facilities also produce steam sold to nearby government and commercial establishments. Wheelabrator’s 22 facilities have a combined electric generating capacity of 896 megawatts, enough energy to power more than 985,000 homes. To learn more, visit www.wheelabratortechnologies.com.

About Waste Management

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company’s customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more, visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

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